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9 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy/Inspection and Security

SUBJECT: Proposal to ADMIC by Army to Provide Against  
"False Confirmation" of U. S. Intelligence

REFERENCE: 1. Memorandum dated 4 November 1952 from Army  
member, ADMIC  
2. Memorandum from AD/IAS to AD/IC, dated  
19 November 1952

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25X1A9a 1. [redacted] of my staff discussed this proposal with [redacted] when we first received it. The Army proposal appeared incomplete and [redacted] suggested to [redacted] that the paper be rewritten to clarify: 25X1A9a 25X1A9a

25X1X7□ a. That it applied to intelligence on the area for which [redacted] 25X1X7□ [redacted] is responsible (passed to CIA orally);

b. That the resolution, if adopted, would be permissive only - not affecting existing agreements;

c. That the paper is confined to military information (including military intelligence); and

d. That the paper be more specific in its reference to existing policy papers (and those papers should be attached) which would be superseded.

25X1A9a [redacted] discussed these points with the Army and was advised that these concerns could be handled orally and that the paper therefore would not require revision.

2. 25X1A9a [redacted] then discussed the paper with several interested CIA offices. It was apparent from these discussions that as the paper lacked clarity no one would consider their attitude final until the paper was rewritten in more precise language. Following [redacted] 25X1A9a discussions with CIA offices he again spoke with [redacted] and conveyed to him the range of CIA opinion on the paper and consensus of that 25X1A9a opinion. Comments on the paper as written ranged from concurrence to opposition. A summary of these comments is as follows:

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a. Although it is understood that the paper is addressed only to military information it does not so state and is therefore subject to criticism that the proposal extends beyond the jurisdiction of SEMIC;

b. It is understood that the intelligence area concerned is that for which [REDACTED] is responsible but the paper does not so state; 25X1X7

c. The paper does not indicate which policy papers it would supersede;

d. The paper appears to violate existing international agreements and CIA regulations which prevent passage from one [REDACTED] country to another of U. S. information without U. S. approval; 25X1X7

25X1X7 e. The paper does not make clear that information may be passed to one [REDACTED] with controls to prevent it from being given to another [REDACTED]. It is possible that the paper might be meaningless if no country included in the [REDACTED] group could pass intelligence to another without the originating country's permission; 25X1X7

f. Even when "military intelligence" only is involved it is sometimes unwise to disclose the national source of all or part of the information upon which that intelligence is based;

g. It might be the result of such a proposal that CIA would give the Army less information for fear of disclosure of the U. S. as the source.

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3. [REDACTED] felt that one possible solution to the problem of security against "false confirmation" would be the case by case method of one country asking a second country for the source of certain intelligence and that second country then checking with the country or origin for permission to reveal it as the source. This could be done without setting up any carte blanche arrangement which appears to be hazardous.

CONCLUSION

4. Considering the opinions obtained informally by this office from the CIA offices we recommend that our SEMIC member register an objection to the Army proposal as written and, if the proposal continues before SEMIC, he seek a more precise paper to encompass the points mentioned above.

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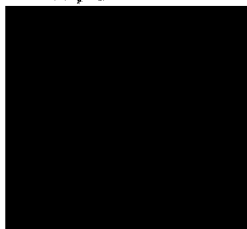
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5. As an alternative to the Army proposal our SDMIC member might consider the suggestion contained in paragraph 3 above.

JAMES Q. REBER  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination

cc: ODB/I



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